

# **MUNICIPAL LAW**

**Western University Department of Political Science  
Local Government Program  
Fall Term 2014**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION: MUNICIPAL LAW

**Instructor(s)** Ken Strong, Tara Oudekerk and Jennifer Smout

**Course Times**

Course Times For PA 9911, 2014		
Term	Day	Time
Fall	September 19, 2014	3pm – 7 pm
Fall	September 20, 2014	9am – 5 pm
Fall	October 31, 2014	3pm – 7 pm
Fall	November 1, 2014	9am – 5 pm
Fall	November 28, 2014	3pm – 7 pm
Fall	November 29, 2014	9am – 5 pm

**Location** 4255 SSC

**Important Dates**

Assignment	Date	Time
Paper Outline	October 31, 2014	3 pm
Presentations	November 28, 2014	3 pm – 7 pm
Paper	December 8, 2014	5 pm

**Instruction** Seminar Discussions and Lectures

**Assessment** 50% Paper  
20% Participation  
10% Paper Outline  
20% Presentation

**Materials** Reading materials prepared by instructor, *Municipal Act* and *Planning Act*.

The reading material will be posted on OWL. If you are unable to receive them in this manner, kindly let one of the instructors know and they can be emailed to you in WORD format.

The core legislation which we will be referencing is:

- i. *Municipal Act*, 2001. S.O. 2001, c. 25, available on e-laws: [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_01m25\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_01m25_e.htm)

- ii. *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P13, as amended, available on e-laws:  
[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90p13\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90p13_e.htm)

The parts of the Act you should be familiar with will be referenced in the materials and in class lectures and discussions.

We will also be referencing other legislation, policies and plans throughout the course.

### **Description**

The functions, obligations and responsibilities of municipalities have increased substantially over the last few decades. At the same time, the provincial government has undertaken a host of legislative initiatives, including a complete overhaul of the *Municipal Act*, designed to reform the roles of municipalities in Ontario. With change comes opportunity. The course surveys the field of municipal law, the changes and opportunities, and focuses particularly on legal issues that tend to arise for municipal officers, administrators and employees.

### **Contact Information**

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**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>
<b>September 19, 2014</b>	Introduction  Introduction to Law in Canada  Introduction to Municipal Law
<b>September 20, 2014</b>	Introduction to Municipal Law  Municipal Procedures, Decisions and Enforcement  Discussion about the Paper and Research Methods
<b>October 31, 2014</b>	Introduction to Land Use Planning Law in Ontario
<b>November 1, 2014</b>	Introduction to Land Use Planning Law in Ontario  Group Presentation Preparation
<b>November 28, 2014</b>	Group Presentations
<b>November 29, 2014</b>	Special Topics in Municipal and Land Use Planning Law

For the 50% Paper component, prepare a paper on a municipal law topic. You can choose a topic from the list of topics provided by the instructors or you can pick a municipal or land use theme of your choice.

For the 20% Participation component, students are expected to participate in class and demonstrate a good understanding of the course materials through their involvement with in class exercises, group work and class discussions.

For the 20% Presentation component, students will be placed in groups and each group will receive an assignment during the class on October 31, 2014. The groups will have time in class on November 1, 2014 to meet and discuss the assignment and review any questions they may have with the instructors. Each group will give a presentation on the assignment during regular class time on November 28, 2014. Each group is expected to present for approximately 20 minutes with an additional 5 minutes at the end to answer any questions or discuss any interesting points that may be raised during the presentation. Every member of the group is expected to participate in the presentation.

For the 10% Paper Outline component, students are expected to set out their topic for the paper and describe the components of their paper including the thesis for their paper and the areas of discussion that will be discussed as well as the position the student is taking with respect to the topic. A complete bibliography is not required, but students are expected to submit a list of the research materials reviewed in the preparation of their paper outline.